

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Frame Data Compensation Amount Output Device, Frame Data
5 Compensation Device, Frame Data Display Device, and
Frame Data Compensation Amount Output Method, Frame Data
Compensation Method

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a matrix-type image
display device such as liquid crystal panel and, more
15 particularly, to a frame data compensation amount output device,
a frame data compensation device, a frame data display device,
a vertical edge detector and a vertical edge level signal output
device for the purpose of improving rate-of-change of a
gradation, and a frame data compensation output method, a frame
20 data compensation method, a frame data display method, a
vertical edge detection method and a vertical edge level output
method.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

25 Prior art 1.

In the conventional liquid crystal panel, an image memory
that stores one frame of digital image data is provided. Further,
a comparison circuit that compares levels of the
above-mentioned digital image data and an image data to be
30 read out one frame later from the above-mentioned image memory

to output a change in gradation signal is also provided. In the case where this comparison circuit determines that levels of both of these comparison data are the same, the comparison circuit selects a normal liquid crystal drive voltage, and drives displaying electrode of a liquid crystal panel. On the contrary, in the case where the comparison circuit determines that levels of both of the above-mentioned comparison data are not the same, the comparison circuit selects a liquid crystal drive voltage higher than the above-mentioned normal liquid crystal drive voltage, and drives displaying electrode of a liquid crystal panel, as disclosed in, for example, the Japanese Patent Publication (unexamined) No. 189232/1994, at Fig. 2.

Prior art 2.

In the conventional liquid crystal panel, in the case where an input signal is an interlace (interlaced scan) signal such as TV signal, a sequential scan conversion circuit that converts an interlace signal to a progressive (sequential scan) signal, is combined to carry out a further compensation of a drive voltage of the liquid crystal panel having been transformed larger than usual at the time of the change in gradation. Consequently, display performance on the liquid crystal panel at the time of inputting any interlace signal is improved, as disclosed in the Japanese Patent Publication (unexamined) No. 288589/1992, at Figs. 16 and 15.

As shown in the above-mentioned Prior art 1, it is certainly possible to improve rate of change in gradation by increasing response rate of the liquid crystal panel. Such increase in response rate can be achieved by making a drive voltage of the liquid crystal at the time of change in

gradation larger than normal liquid crystal drive voltage.

However, in the case where input signal is an interlace signal, for example, NTSC signal, a flicker interference (flickering) as aliasing interference brought about by the sampling theorem is contained in a region where a vertical frequency component is high. Moreover, this interference component is an interference the gradation of which varies every frame. Accordingly, since this interference component is also emphasized by a signal processing as shown in the above-mentioned prior art 1, a problem exists in that quality level of a video picture to be displayed on the liquid crystal panel is deteriorated.

In the above-mentioned prior art 2, in the case where input signal is an interlace (interlaced scan) signal such as TV signal, a sequential scan conversion circuit that converts the interlace signal to a progressive (sequential scan) signal, is incorporated. Then, a drive voltage of the liquid crystal panel having been transformed to be larger than usual at the time of change in gradation is further compensated thereby improving a display performance on the liquid crystal panel when an interlace signal is inputted. In addition, a drive voltage of the liquid crystal at the time of change in gradation is made larger than a normal drive voltage. Thus, the rate-of-change in gradation is improved by speeding up a response rate of the liquid crystal.

However, in the above-mentioned prior art 2, since it becomes necessary to be provided with various circuits such as frame memory accompanied by the addition of a sequential scan conversion circuit, a problem exists in that a circuit scale constituting the device grows in size as compared with

the prior art 1.

Furthermore, an input signal is limited to the case of an interlace signal in the above-mentioned prior art 2. Thus, another problem exists in that, in the case of outputting a signal (progressive signal) after having processed an input interlace signal in which an interference component such as flicker interference remains contained as is a home computer provided with, e.g., TV tuner, it is impossible to effectively cope with the case.

10

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, a first object of the present invention is to obtain a frame data compensation amount output device and a frame data compensation amount output method, which are capable of outputting a compensation amount in order to compensate a liquid crystal drive signal thereby improving rate-of-change in gradation at a part where there is no flicker interference in an image to be displayed (hereinafter, the image is also referred to as "frame"); and outputting a compensation amount in order to compensate a liquid crystal drive signal depending on degrees of this flicker interference at a part where there is any flicker interference, for the purpose of improving response rate of the liquid crystal as well as displaying the frame less influenced by the flicker interference in an image display device employing, e.g., liquid crystal panel.

A second object of the invention is to obtain a frame data compensation device or a frame data compensation method, which is capable of adjusting mentioned gradation rate-of-change by compensating a liquid crystal drive signal with

30

a compensation amount outputted from mentioned frame data compensation amount output device or by the mentioned frame data compensation amount output method.

5 A third object of the invention is to obtain a frame data compensation device or a frame data compensation method, which is capable of adjusting a gradation rate-of-change of a liquid crystal even in the case where capacity of a frame memory is reduced.

10 A fourth object of the invention is to obtain a frame data display device and a frame data display method, which are capable of displaying an image less influenced by the flicker interference on the mentioned liquid crystal panel based on a liquid crystal drive signal having been compensated by the mentioned frame data compensation device or the mentioned
15 frame data compensation method.

A frame data compensation amount output device according to this invention takes one frame for a target frame out of frames contained in an image signal to be inputted. The frame data compensation amount output device comprises: first
20 compensation amount output means for outputting a first compensation amount to compensate data corresponding to the mentioned target frame based on the data corresponding to the mentioned target frame and the data corresponding to a frame before the mentioned target frame by one frame (i.e., a frame
25 which is one frame previous to the mentioned target frame); and second compensation amount output means for outputting a second compensation amount to compensate a specific data detected based on the data corresponding to the mentioned target frame and the data corresponding to a frame before the
30 mentioned target frame by one frame. The frame data

compensation amount output device outputs any of the mentioned first compensation amount, the mentioned second compensation amount, and a third compensation amount that is generated based on the mentioned first compensation amount and the mentioned second compensation amount and compensates data corresponding to the mentioned target frame.

As a result, it becomes possible to display a less-deteriorated target frame by the display means, as well as to make a response rate in the display means faster.

The foregoing and other objects, features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description of the present invention when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

15

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a diagram showing a constitution of an image display device according to a first preferred embodiment.

Fig. 2 is a diagram showing a constitution of a frame data compensation amount output device according to the first embodiment.

Fig. 3 is a diagram showing a constitution of a compensation amount output device according to the first embodiment.

Fig. 4 is a chart showing input/output data of gradation rate-of-change compensation amount output means according to the first embodiment.

Fig. 5 is a chart showing relation of compensation amounts within a lookup table according to the first embodiment.

Fig. 6 is a diagram showing a part of an internal

constitution of flicker suppression compensation amount output means according to the first embodiment.

Fig. 7 is a chart for explaining average gradation at a flicker part.

5 Figs. 8 (a) and (b) are charts each for explaining operations of coefficient generation means according to the first embodiment.

Figs. 9 (a), (b) and (c) are charts each showing change in gradation characteristic of a display image in the case where a first coefficient $m=1$ and a second coefficient $n=0$ in the first embodiment.

10 Figs. 10 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) are charts each showing change in gradation characteristic of a display image in the case where the first coefficient $m=0$, and the second coefficient $n=1$ in the first embodiment.

15 Figs. 11 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) are charts each showing change in gradation characteristic of a display image in the case where the first coefficient $m=0.5$, and the second coefficient $n=0.5$ in the first embodiment.

20 Fig. 12 is a diagram for explaining a constitution of a flicker detector according to the first embodiment.

Fig. 13 is a flowchart explaining operations of the flicker detector according to the first embodiment.

25 Fig. 14 is a diagram showing a part of an internal constitution of flicker suppression compensation amount output means according to a second preferred embodiment.

Figs. 15 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) are charts each showing change in gradation characteristic of a display image in the case where a first coefficient $m=0$, and a second coefficient $n=1$ in the second embodiment.

Fig. 16 is a diagram showing a constitution of an image display device according to a third preferred embodiment.

Fig. 17 is a diagram showing a constitution of a compensation amount output device according to the third
5 embodiment.

Fig. 18 is a diagram showing a constitution of flicker suppression compensation amount output means according to the third embodiment.

Fig. 19 is a chart for explaining operations of
10 coefficient generation means according to the third embodiment.

Figs. 20 (a), (b) and (c) are charts each showing change in gradation characteristic of a display image in the case where a first coefficient $m=1$, and a second coefficient $n=0$
15 in the third embodiment.

Figs. 21 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) are charts each showing change in gradation characteristic of a display image in the case where the first coefficient $m=0$, and the second coefficient $n=1$ in the third embodiment.

Fig. 22 is a diagram showing a constitution of vertical edge detection means according to the third embodiment.
20

Fig. 23 is a diagram showing a constitution of a vertical edge detector according to the third embodiment.

Fig. 24 is a diagram showing a constitution of a vertical edge detector according to a fourth preferred embodiment.
25

Fig. 25 is a chart for explaining a new vertical edge level signal Ve' .

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

30 Embodiment 1.

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing a constitution of an image display device according to a first preferred embodiment. In the image display device according to this first embodiment, an image signal is inputted to an input terminal 1.

The image signal having been inputted to the input terminal 1 is received by receiving means 2. Then, the image signal having been received by the receiving means 2 is outputted to a frame data compensation device 3 as frame data Di2 of a digital format (hereinafter, this frame data are also referred to as image data). Herein, the mentioned frame data Di2 stand for data that corresponding to, e.g., number of gradations and chrominance differential signal of a frame that are included in an image signal to be inputted. Further, the mentioned frame data Di2 are the frame data corresponding to a frame targeted (hereinafter, referred to as target frame) to be compensated by the frame data compensation device 3 out of the frames included in the inputted image signal. Now, in this first embodiment, the case of compensating a frame data Di2 corresponding to a number of gradations of the mentioned target frame is hereinafter described.

A frame data Di2 having been outputted from the receiving means 2 are compensated through the frame data compensation device 3, and outputted to display means 12 as frame data Dj2 having been compensated.

The display means 12 displays the compensated target frame based on a frame data Dj2 having been outputted from the frame data compensation device 3.

Operations of the frame data compensation device 3 according to the first embodiment are hereinafter described.

A frame data Di2 having been outputted from the receiving means 2 are first encoded by encoding means 4 in the frame data compensation device 3 whereby data capacity of the frame data Di2 is compressed.

5 Then, the encoding means 4 outputs a first encoded data Da2, which are obtained by encoding the mentioned frame data Di2, to first delay means 5 and a first decoding means 7. Herein, as an encoding method of a frame data Di2 at the encoding means 4, any encoding method for a still image, for
10 example, a 2-dimensional discrete cosine transform encoding method such as JPEG, a block encoding method such as FBT or GBTC, a prediction encoding method such as JPEG-LS, and a wavelet transform method such as JPEG2000, can be employed. As the above-mentioned encoding method for the still image,
15 either a reversible (lossless) encoding method in which an image data before encoding and a decoded image data are completely coincident or a non-reversible (lossy) encoding method in which both of them are not coincident can be employed. Further, either variable length encoding method in which
20 amount of encoding varies depending on image data or a fixed-length encoding method in which amount of encoding is constant can be employed.

 The first delay means 5, which has received the first encoded data Da2 having been outputted from the encoding means
25 4, outputs to a second delay means 6 second encoded data Da1 corresponding to a frame before the frame corresponding to the mentioned first encoded data Da2 by one frame. Moreover, the mentioned second encoded data Da1 are outputted to a second decoding means 8 as well.

30 Furthermore, first decoding means 7, which receives the

first encoded data Da2 having been outputted from the encoding means 4, outputs to a frame data compensation amount output device 10 a first decoded data Db2 that can be obtained by decoding the mentioned first encoded data Da2.

5 A second delay means 6, which receives the second encoded data Da1 having been outputted from the first delay means 5, outputs to a third decoding means 9 third encoded data Da0 corresponding to a frame before the frame corresponding to mentioned second encoded data Da1 by one frame, that is, 10 corresponding to the frame before the mentioned target frame by two frames.

Besides, second decoding means 8, which receives the second encoded data Da1 having been outputted from the first delay means 5, outputs to the frame data compensation amount 15 output device 10 a second decoded data Db1 that can be obtained by decoding the mentioned second encoded data Da1.

The third decoding means 9, which receives the third encoded data Da0 having been outputted from the second delay means 6, outputs to the frame data compensation amount output 20 device 10 third decoded data Db0 that can be obtained by decoding the mentioned third encoded data Da0.

The frame data compensation amount output device 10, which receives the first decoded data Db2 having been outputted from the first decoding means 7, the second decoded 25 data Db1 having been outputted from the second decoding means 8 and the third decoded data Db0 having been outputted from the third decoding means 9, outputs to compensation means 11 a compensation amount Dc to compensate frame data Di2 corresponding to an target frame.

30 The compensation means 11 having received a compensation

amount Dc compensates the mentioned frame data Di2 based on this compensation amount Dc, and outputs to the display means 12 frame data Dj2 that can be obtained by this compensation.

Furthermore, a compensation amount Dc is set to be such
5 a compensation amount as enables to carry out compensation so that a gradation of an target frame to be displayed based on mentioned frame data Dj2 may be within a range of gradations capable of being displayed by the display means 12. Accordingly, for example, in the case where the display means
10 can display a gradation of up to 8 bits, a compensation amount is set to be the one enabling the compensation so that a gradation of a target frame to be displayed based on the mentioned frame data Dj2 may be in a range of from 0 to 255 gradations.

15 In addition, in the frame data compensation device 3, it is certainly possible to carry out compensation of a frame data Di2 even if the mentioned encoding means 4, mentioned first decoding means 7, mentioned second decoding means 8, and mentioned third decoding means 9 are not provided.
20 However, a data capacity of the frame data can be made smaller by providing the mentioned encoding means 4. Thus it becomes possible to eliminate recording means comprising a semiconductor memory, a magnetic disc or the like that constitutes the first delay means 5 or the second delay means
25 6, thereby enabling to make a circuit scale smaller as the whole device. Further, by making an encoding factor (data compressibility) higher, it is possible to make smaller capacity of, e.g., memory necessary for delaying the mentioned first encoded data Da2 and the mentioned second
30 encoded data Da1 in the mentioned first delay means 5 and the

mentioned second delay means 6.

Furthermore, due to the fact that there are provided the decoding means (first decoding means, second decoding means and third decoding means), which decode the encoded data (first encoded data Da2, second encoded data Da1 and third encoded data Db0), it comes to be possible to eliminate influence due to any error generated by encoding and compression.

Now, the frame data compensation amount output device 10 according to the first embodiment is described.

Fig. 2 is an example of an internal constitution of the frame data compensation amount output device 10 of Fig. 1.

With reference to Fig. 2, the first decoded data Db2, second decoded data Db1 and third decoded data Db0, which have been outputted from the first decoding means 7, second decoding means 8 and third decoding means 9 respectively, are inputted to each of a compensation amount output device 13 and a flicker detector 14.

The flicker detector 14 outputs a flicker detection signal Ef to the compensation amount output device 13 in accordance with data corresponding to a flicker component in the data corresponding to a target frame from the mentioned first decoded data Db2, second decoded data Db1 and third decoded data db0.

The compensation amount output device 13 outputs a compensation amount Dc to compensate frame data Di2 based on the mentioned first decoded data Db2, second decoded data Db1 and third decoded data db0, as well as the mentioned flicker detection signal Ef.

The compensation amount output device 13 outputs, as a

compensation amount D_c , a compensation amount causing the rate-of-change in gradation to improve (hereinafter, a compensation amount causing the rate-of-change in gradation to improve is referred to as gradation rate-of-change compensation amount, or first compensation amount as well.) in the case where frame data $Di2$ corresponding to an target frame contain no component equivalent to a flicker interference (hereinafter, it is also referred to as a flicker component); a compensation amount to compensate a component equivalent to this flicker interference (hereinafter, a compensation amount to compensate a component equivalent to the flicker interference is referred to as flicker suppression compensation amount, or second compensation amount as well.) in the case of containing a component equivalent to the flicker interference; or a third compensation amount generated based on the mentioned first compensation amount and the mentioned second compensation amount.

Fig. 3 shows an example of an internal constitution of the compensation amount output device 13 of Fig. 2.

With reference to Fig. 3, gradation rate-of-change compensation amount output means 15 (hereinafter, the gradation rate-of-change compensation amount output means 15 is also referred to as first compensation amount output means) is provided with a lookup table as shown in Fig. 4 that consists of gradation rate-of-change compensation amounts D_v to compensate number of gradations of the frame data $Di2$. Then, the gradation rate-of-change compensation amount output means 15 outputs to a first coefficient unit 18 the mentioned gradation rate-of-change compensation amount D_v from the

lookup table based on the mentioned first decoded data Db2 and the mentioned second decoded data Db1.

Flicker suppression compensation amount output means 16 (hereinafter, the flicker suppression compensation amount output means 16 is also referred to as second compensation amount output means) outputs to a second coefficient unit 19 a flicker suppression compensation amount Df to compensate frame data Di2 containing data corresponding to a flicker interference based on the first decoded data Db2, second decoded data Db1 and third decoded data Db0.

Coefficient generation means 17 outputs a first coefficient m, by which a gradation rate-of-change compensation amount Dv is multiplied, and a second coefficient n, by which a flicker suppression compensation amount Df is multiplied, to the first coefficient unit 18 and the second coefficient unit 19 respectively in accordance with a flicker detection signal Ef having been outputted from the flicker detector 14.

The mentioned first coefficient unit 18 and second coefficient unit 19 multiply a gradation rate-of-change compensation amount Dv and flicker suppression compensation amount Df respectively by the mentioned first coefficient m and the mentioned second coefficient n having been outputted from the coefficient generation means 17. Then, $(m * Dv)$ (* is a multiplication sign and further description is omitted), and $(n * Df)$ are outputted to an adder 20 from the first coefficient unit 18 and from the second coefficient unit 19 respectively.

The adder 20 adds $(m * Dv)$ having been outputted from the mentioned first coefficient unit 18 and $(n * Df)$ having been

outputted from the mentioned second coefficient unit 19, and outputs a compensation amount Dc.

Fig. 4 shows a constitution of the mentioned lookup table, and is an example in the case where mentioned respective first
5 decoded data Db1 and mentioned second decoded data Db2 are of 8 bits (256 gradations).

Number of compensation amounts of rate-of-change in gradation forming the mentioned lookup table is determined based on number of gradations capable of being displayed by
10 the display means 12.

For example, in the case where number of gradations, which the display means can display, is 4 bits, the mentioned lookup table is formed of $(16*16)$ numbers of gradation rate-of-change compensation amounts Dv. Further in the case of being
15 10 bits, the mentioned lookup table is formed of $(1024*1024)$ numbers of gradation rate-of-change compensation amounts Dv.

Thus, in the case of 8 bits as shown in Fig. 4, number of gradations, which the display means can display, is 256 gradations, and therefore the lookup table is formed of $(256$
20 $* 256)$ numbers of gradation rate-of-change compensation amounts.

Further, in the case where number of gradations of a target frame increases over that of the frame before the mentioned target frame by one frame when the display means
25 12 displays the target frame, a gradation rate-of-change compensation amount Dv is a compensation amount that compensates data corresponding to number of gradations higher than that of the mentioned target frame out of the frame data Di2 corresponding to the mentioned target frame. Whereas,
30 in the case where number of gradations of the mentioned target

frame decreases under that of the frame before the mentioned target frame by one frame, the gradation rate-of-change compensation amount D_v is a compensation amount to compensate data corresponding to number of gradations lower than that of the mentioned target frame out of the frame data $Di2$ corresponding to the mentioned target frame.

In addition, in the case where there is no change between number of gradations of the mentioned target frame and that of the frame before the mentioned target frame by one frame, the mentioned gradation rate-of-change compensation amount D_v is 0.

Moreover, in mentioned lookup table, a gradation rate-of-change compensation amount D_v responsive to the case where the change from number of gradations of the frame before the target frame by one frame to number of gradations of the target frame is a slow change, is set to be larger. For example, in the liquid crystal panel, response rate at the time of changing from an intermediate gradation (gray) to a high gradation (white) is slow. Accordingly, the gradation rate-of-change compensation amount D_v that is outputted based on decoded data $Db1$ corresponding to an intermediate gradation and decoded data $Db2$ corresponding to a high gradation is set to be larger. Thus, magnitudes of a gradation rate-of-change compensation amount D_v in mentioned lookup table are typically shown as in Fig. 5, thereby enabling to effectively improve the rate-of-change in gradation at the mentioned display means 12.

Fig. 6 is an example of an internal constitution of the flicker suppression compensation amount output means 16 of Fig. 3.

The Mentioned first decoded data Db2 and the third decoded data Db0 are inputted to a first 1/2 coefficient unit 22 and a second 1/2 coefficient unit 23 respectively. Then, the mentioned first decoded data Db2 and mentioned third decoded data Db0 are brought into data of 1/2 size respectively to be output to an adder 24. Further, the mentioned second decoded data Db1 are outputted to the adder 24 as they are.

The adder 24 adds the mentioned decoded data Db1, and the mentioned first decoded data Db2 and third decoded data Db0, which have been outputted from the first 1/2 coefficient unit 22 and second 1/2 coefficient unit 23, and outputs a result obtained by such addition $(1/2 * Db2 + Db1 + 1/2 * Db0)$ to a third 1/2 coefficient unit 25.

An addition result having been outputted from the adder 24 is brought into the data of 1/2 size $(1/2 * (1/2 * Db2 + Db1 + 1/2 * Db0))$ by means of the mentioned third 1/2 coefficient unit 25, and outputted to a subtracter 26. Hereinafter, data to be outputted from the subtracter 26 are referred to as average gradation data (ave).

In the case where the flicker interference occurs at the time of displaying a target frame by the display means 12, the mentioned average gradation data Db (ave) correspond to an average gradation Vf of the flicker part, which is now described referring to Fig. 7.

With reference to Fig. 7, Vb denotes number of gradations of a target frame, and Va denotes number of gradations of the frame before the mentioned target frame by one frame. Number of gradations of the frame before the mentioned target frame by two frames is the same Vb as that of the target frame. Herein, an average Vf of number of gradations at the flicker

part is,

$$V_f = V_b - (V_b - V_a) / 2 = (V_b + V_a) / 2.$$

Based on these conditions, number of gradations V (ave) corresponding to an average gradation data Db (ave) is
5 obtained as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} V(\text{ave}) &= 1/2 * (V_b/2 + V_a + V_b/2) \\ &= (V_b + V_a) / 2 = V_f \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the average V_f of number of gradations at the flicker
part and number of gradations V (ave) corresponding to average
10 gradation data Db (ave) are coincident to each other.

The subtractor 26 subtracts the mentioned average
gradation data Db (ave) from the mentioned second decoded data
 $Db1$, thereby generating a flicker suppression compensation
amount Df , and outputs this flicker suppression compensation
15 amount Df to the second coefficient unit 19.

Herein, generation of the mentioned flicker suppression
compensation amount Df is described again with reference to
Fig. 7. As described above, number of gradation V (ave)
corresponding to the average gradation data Db (ave) is,

$$20 \quad V(\text{ave}) = (V_b + V_a) / 2 = V_f.$$

Then, subtraction is carried out at the subtracter 26, and
a flicker suppression compensation amount Df corresponding
to number of gradations V (Df) as shown below is generated.

$$\begin{aligned} V(Df) &= V_a - V(\text{ave}) \\ 25 \quad &= V_a - (V_b + V_a) / 2 \\ &= -(V_b - V_a) / 2 \end{aligned}$$

Values of the first coefficient m and second coefficient
 n to be outputted from the coefficient generation means 17
are determined in accordance with a flicker detection signal
30 as shown in Figs. 8 (a) and (b). Hereinafter, operations of

the coefficient generation means 17 are described referring to Fig. 8(a).

5 In the case where level of a flicker detection signal E_f is not more than E_{f1} ($0 \leq E_f \leq E_{f1}$), specifically, in the case where a component equivalent to a flicker interference is not contained in a frame data $Di2$, or in the case where this component equivalent to the flicker gives no influence on image quality of a target frame to be displayed by the display means 12 even if the component equivalent to the mentioned
10 flicker interference is contained, the first coefficient m and the second coefficient n are outputted so that only a gradation rate-of-change compensation amount Dv may be a compensation amount Dc . Accordingly, $m=1$ and $n=0$ are outputted from the coefficient generation means 17.

15 In the case where level of a flicker detection signal E_f is not less than E_{f4} ($E_{f4} \leq E_f$), more specifically, in the case where a component equivalent to a flicker interference is contained in a frame data $Di2$, as well as this component equivalent to the flicker interference assuredly becomes the
20 flicker interference in a target frame to be displayed by the display means, the first coefficient m and the second coefficient n are outputted so that only a flicker suppression compensation amount Df may be the compensation amount Dc . Accordingly, $m=0$ and $n=1$ are outputted from the coefficient
25 generation means 17.

In the case where level of a flicker detection signal E_f is larger than E_{f1} and smaller than E_{f4} ($E_{f1} < E_f < E_{f4}$), the first coefficient m and the second coefficient n are outputted so that a third compensation amount to be generated based on a
30 gradation rate-of-change compensation amount Dv and a flicker

suppression compensation amount D_f may be the compensation amount D_c . Accordingly, the first coefficient m and second coefficient n meeting the conditions of

$$0 < m < 1 \text{ and } 0 < n < 1$$

5 are outputted from the coefficient generation means 17.

Furthermore, the mentioned first coefficient m and the mentioned second coefficient n are set so as to satisfy the condition of $m+n \leq 1$. In case of not satisfying this condition, it is possible that a frame data D_{j2} , which is obtained by
10 compensating a frame data D_{i2} with a compensation amount D_c to be outputted from the frame data compensation amount output device 10, contains data corresponding to number of gradations exceeding that capable of being displayed by the display means. That is, such a problem occurs that a target
15 frame cannot be displayed even if the mentioned target frame is intended to be displayed by the display means based on the mentioned frame data D_{j2}

In addition, although the change of the first coefficient m and the second coefficient n are shown with a straight line
20 in Figs. 8 (a) and (b), it is also preferable the coefficients are shown, e.g., by a curved line in case of a monotonic change.

Further, even in this case, it is a matter of course that the mentioned first coefficient m and mentioned second coefficient n are set so as to satisfy mentioned condition,
25 i.e., $m+n \leq 1$.

Furthermore, although the above-mentioned descriptions are about the case of setting the first coefficient m and the second coefficient n as shown in Fig. 8 (a), it is also possible to set the mentioned first coefficient m and the mentioned
30 second coefficient n arbitrarily if only they satisfy the

mentioned condition of $m+n \leq 1$. Fig. 8(b) is another example of setting the first coefficient m and the second coefficient n . In this example, in the case where a flicker detection signal E_f is in a zone of from E_{f3} to E_{f2} , an outputted compensation amount D_c is 0. Further, in the case where the mentioned flicker detection signal E_f is smaller than E_{f3} , only the gradation rate-of-change compensation amount D_v is outputted as a compensation amount D_c ; while only the flicker suppression compensation amount D_f is outputted as a compensation amount D_c in the case where the mentioned flicker detection signal E_f is larger than E_{f2} .

Figs. 9 (a), (b) and (c) are charts each showing a change in gradation characteristic of a target frame to be displayed by the display means 12 in the case where level of a flicker detection signal E_f is not more than E_{f1} ($0 \leq E_f \leq E_{f1}$), or in the case where the first coefficient $m=1$, and the second coefficient $n=0$ in Fig. 8(a).

In the drawings, Fig. 9 (a) indicates values of a frame data D_{i2} before compensation, (b) indicates values of a frame data D_{j2} having been compensated, and (c) indicates gradations of a target frame displayed by the display means 12. Additionally, in Fig. 9 (c), characteristic shown with a broken line indicates gradations of a target frame to be displayed in the case of no compensation, i.e., based on the mentioned frame data D_{i2} .

In the case where number of gradations of a target frame increases as compared with the frame before the target frame by one frame as the change from j frame to $(j+1)$ frame in Fig. 9(a), a value of a frame data D_{j2} having been compensated with the mentioned gradation rate-of-change compensation amount

Dv is $(Di2+V1)$ as shown in Fig. 9(b). On the other hand, in the case where number of gradations of a target frame decreases as compared with the frame before the target frame by one frame as the change from k frame to $(k+1)$ frame in Fig. 9(a), a value of a frame data Dj2 having been compensated with the mentioned gradation rate-of-change compensation amount Dv is $(Di2-V2)$ as shown in Fig. 9 (b).

Owing to the performance of this compensation, transmittance of a liquid crystal as for a display pixel (picture element), in which number of gradations of a target frame increases over the preceding frame by one frame, rises as compared with the case where a target frame is displayed based on a frame data Di2 before compensation. Whereas, transmittance of a liquid crystal as for a display pixel (picture element), in which number of gradations of a target frame decreases under the preceding frame by one frame, drops as compared with the case where a target frame is displayed based on a frame data Di2 before compensation.

Thus, as for number of gradations of a target frame displayed by the display means 12, it comes to be possible to make a display gradation (brightness) of a display image change substantially within one frame as shown in Fig. 9 (c).

Figs. 10 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) are charts each showing a change in gradation characteristic of a display image at the display means 12 in the case where a flicker detection signal Ef is not less than Ef4 ($Ef4 \leq Ef$), or in the case where the first coefficient $m=0$, and the second coefficient $n=1$.

In the drawings, Fig. 10 (a) indicates values of a frame data Di2 before compensation. Fig. 10 (b) indicates values of an average gradation data Db (ave) to be outputted from

the $1/2$ coefficient unit 25 constituting the flicker suppression compensation amount output means 16. Fig. 10 (c) indicates values of a flicker suppression compensation amount D_f to be outputted from the flicker suppression compensation amount output means 16. Fig. 10 (d) indicates values of a frame data D_{j2} obtained by compensating a frame data D_{i2} . Fig. 10 (e) indicates gradations of a target frame displayed by the display means 12 based on mentioned frame data D_{j2} . Further, in Fig. 10 (d), a solid line indicates values of a frame data D_{j2} . For the purpose of comparison, a broken line indicates values of a frame data D_{i2} before compensation. Besides, in Fig. 10 (e), characteristic indicated by the broken line is a display gradation in the case of no gradation compensation, or in the case where a target frame is displayed based on the mentioned frame data D_{i2} .

As shown in Fig. 10 (a), in the case of a flicker state in which number of gradations changes periodically every frame, a flicker suppression compensation amount D_f as shown in Fig. 10 (c) is outputted from the flicker suppression compensation amount output means 16. Then, a frame data D_{i2} is compensated with this flicker suppression compensation amount D_f . Accordingly, frame data D_{i2} having been in the state that components corresponding to a flicker interference are contained, of which variation in data values is significant as shown in Fig. 10 (a), are compensated so that a data value in a region containing a flicker component in the frame data D_{i2} before compensation may be a constant data value as a frame data D_{j2} shown in Fig. 10 (d). Thus, in the case of displaying a target frame by the display means 12 based on the mentioned frame data D_{j2} , it becomes possible to prevent

the flicker interference from being displayed.

Figs. 11 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) are charts each showing a change in gradation characteristic of a display image on the display means 12 in the case of $m=n=0.5$.

5 In the case of $m=n=0.5$, display data of a target frame to be displayed at the display means 12 comes to be as shown in Fig. 11 (e) with the third compensation amount that is generated from the mentioned gradation rate-of-change compensation amount D_v and a flicker suppression compensation amount D_f . Further, in Fig. 11 (e), a solid line indicates
10 values of a frame data D_{j2} , and for comparison, a broken line indicates values of a frame data D_{i2} before compensation.

Fig. 12 is an example of an internal constitution of the flicker detector 14 of Fig. 2.

15 First one-frame difference detection means 27, to which the mentioned first decoded data D_{b2} and the mentioned second decoded data D_{b1} have been inputted, outputs to flicker amount measurement means 30 a first differential signal ΔD_{b21} that is obtained based on the mentioned first decoded data D_{b2} and
20 the mentioned second decoded data D_{b1} .

Second one-frame difference detection means 28 to which the mentioned second decoded data D_{b1} and the mentioned third decoded data D_{b0} have been input, outputs to the flicker amount measurement means 30 a second differential signal ΔD_{b10} that
25 is obtained based on the mentioned second decoded data D_{b1} and the mentioned third decoded data D_{b0} .

Furthermore, two-frame difference detection means 29, to which the mentioned first decoded data D_{b2} and the mentioned third decoded data D_{b0} have been inputted, outputs to the
30 flicker amount measurement means 30 a third differential

signal $\Delta Db20$ that is obtained based on the mentioned first decoded data $Db2$ and the mentioned third decoded data $Db0$.

The flicker amount measurement means 30 outputs a flicker detection signal Ef based on the mentioned first differential signal $\Delta Db21$, the mentioned second differential signal $\Delta Db10$ and the mentioned third differential signal $\Delta Db20$.

Fig. 13 is a flowchart showing one example of operations of the flicker amount measurement means 30 of Fig. 12. Hereinafter, the operations of the flicker amount measurement means 30 are described with reference to Fig. 13.

A first flicker amount measurement step $St1$ is provided with a first flicker discrimination threshold $Fth1$ in which magnitude in change between number of gradations of a target frame and that of the frame before this target frame by one frame is a magnitude in minimum change in number of gradations to be processed as a flicker interference. Thus, in the mentioned first flicker amount measurement step $St1$, it is determined whether or not magnitude of the mentioned first differential signal $\Delta Db21$ and the mentioned second differential signal $\Delta Db10$, for example, an absolute value of the difference is larger than the mentioned first flicker discrimination threshold $Fth1$.

In the flowchart of Fig. 13, $ABS(\Delta Db21)$ and $ABS(\Delta Db10)$ denote an absolute value of the mentioned first differential signal $\Delta Db21$ and the mentioned second differential signal $\Delta Db10$.

In second flicker amount measurement step $St2$ it is determined whether or not a sign of the mentioned first differential signal $\Delta Db21$ (plus or minus) and a sign of the mentioned second differential signal $\Delta Db10$ (plus or minus)

are in inverse.

Specifically, by carrying out an operation of

$$(\Delta Db21) * (\Delta Db10),$$

the second flicker amount measurement step St2 determines a
5 relation between the signs of the mentioned first
differential signal $\Delta Db21$ and the mentioned second
differential signal $\Delta Db10$.

A third flicker amount measurement step St3 is provided
with a second flicker discrimination threshold Fth2, and in
10 which it is determined whether or not a difference between
values of the mentioned first differential signal $\Delta Db21$ and
the mentioned second differential signal $\Delta Db10$ is smaller
than the second flicker discrimination threshold Fth2. Thus,
in the third flicker amount measurement step St3 it is
15 determined whether or not the change in number of gradations
of frames before and after is repeated.

Specifically, the third flicker amount measurement step
St3 carries out an operation of

$$ABS (\Delta Db21) - ABS (\Delta Db10),$$

20 and compares a result of this operation with the mentioned
second flicker discrimination threshold Fth2.

A fourth flicker amount measurement step St4 is provided
with a third flicker discrimination threshold Fth3, and
compares level of the mentioned third differential signal Δ
25 Db20 with the mentioned flicker discrimination threshold
Fth3. Thus, in the fourth flicker amount measurement step
St4, it is determined whether or not number of gradations of
a target frame and number of gradations of the frame before
this target frame by two frames are the same.

30 In the case where it is determined by the above-mentioned

steps from the first flicker amount measurement step St1 to the fourth flicker amount measurement step St4 that there is any component equivalent to a flicker interference in the mentioned first decoded data Db2, a flicker detection signal
5 Ef is outputted in a fifth flicker amount measurement step St5 as follows:

$$Ef = 1/2 * (\Delta Db21 + \Delta Db10)$$

On the contrary, in the case where it is determined by the above-mentioned steps from the first flicker amount
10 measurement step St1 to the fourth flicker amount measurement step St4 that there is no component equivalent to a flicker interference in the mentioned first decoded data Db2, a flicker detection signal Ef is outputted in a sixth flicker amount measurement step St6 as follows:

15 $Ef = 0$

Then, the operations from the mentioned first flicker amount measurement step St1 to the mentioned sixth flicker amount measurement step St6 are carried out for each data corresponding to the picture elements at the display means
20 12 out of the frame data Di2.

As described above, according to the image display device according to this first embodiment, it comes to be possible to adaptively compensate the frame data Di2 depending on whether or not any component equivalent to the flicker
25 interference is contained in the frame data Di2 corresponding to a target frame.

Specifically, in the case where no component equivalent to the flicker interference is contained in the mentioned frame data Di2, when number of gradations of the mentioned
30 target frame is changed with respect to that of the frame

before the target frame by one frame, the mentioned frame data Di2 are compensated so that this change may be represented faster by the display means 12, and the compensated frame data Dj2 are generated.

5 Consequently, owing to the fact that displaying a target frame is carried out by the display means 12 based on the mentioned frame data Dj2, it becomes possible to improve gradation rate-of-change of a display image at a normal drive voltage without any change in drive voltage applied to the
10 liquid crystal.

On the other hand, in the case where any component equivalent to the flicker interference is contained in the frame data Di2, as well as it is determined that the component equivalent to this flicker interference assuredly becomes the
15 flicker interference in a target frame to be displayed by the display means 12, the frame data Di2 are compensated so that transmittance of the liquid crystal in the display means 12 may be an average number of gradations of a flicker state, and the frame data Dj2 are generated. Accordingly, it comes
20 to be possible to make constant a display gradation in the case of displaying a target frame by the display means 12. Consequently, influence of the flicker interference on a displayed target frame can be suppressed.

In addition, in the case where any component equivalent
25 to the flicker interference is contained in the frame data Di2, as well as the component equivalent to this flicker interference exerts the influence on image quality of a target frame to be displayed by the display means, the third compensation amount is generated based on a gradation
30 rate-of-change compensation amount Dv and a flicker

suppression compensation amount D_f depending on degrees of the component equivalent to this flicker interference. Then, the mentioned frame data Di_2 are compensated with this third compensation amount, and the frame data Dj_2 are generated.

5 Consequently, in the case of displaying a target frame by the display means based on the mentioned frame data Dj_2 , as compared with the case of displaying any target frame based on the mentioned frame data Di_2 , it becomes possible to display at a normal drive voltage a frame in which occurrence of, e.g.,
10 flicker interference is suppressed, and rate-of-change in gradation is improved.

Specifically, in the image display device according to the first embodiment, at the time of displaying any target frame by the display means, it comes to be possible to improve
15 the rate-of-change in display gradation, and prevent a image quality from deterioration due to unnecessary increase and decrease in number of gradations accompanied by, e.g., occurrence of flicker interference.

Furthermore, due to the fact that the frame data Di_2
20 corresponding to a target frame are encoded by the encoding means 4 and compression of data capacity is carried out, it becomes possible to reduce capacity of the memory necessary for delaying the mentioned frame data Di_2 by one frame time period or two frame time period. Thus, it comes to be possible
25 to simplify the delay means and reduce a circuit scale. Besides, encoding without making the mentioned frame data Di_2 thin (i.e., without skipping the frame data Di_2) carries out the compression of data capacity. Therefore, it is possible to enhance accuracy in the frame data compensation amount D_c
30 and carry out optimum compensation.

In addition, since encoding is not carried out as to the frame data D_i corresponding to a target frame to be displayed, it becomes possible to display the mentioned target frame without exerting any influence of errors that may be caused
5 by coding and decoding.

Further, although the data, which is inputted to the gradation rate-of-change compensation amount output means 15, are of 8 bits in the above-mentioned descriptions of operation, it is not limited to this case. It is also preferable to be
10 of any number of bits as far as the data are of number of bits enabling to substantially generate compensation data by, e.g., an interpolation processing.

Embodiment 2.

15 A second preferred embodiment is to simplify an internal constitution of the flicker suppression compensation amount output means 16 in the image display device according to the foregoing first embodiment. Hereinafter, such a simplified flicker suppression compensation amount output means 16 is
20 described. Except that there is no input of the decoded data Db_0 to the compensation amount output device 13 resulted from the simplification of the flicker suppression compensation amount output means 16, constitution and operation other than
25 those of the flicker suppression compensation amount output means 16 are the same as described in the foregoing first embodiment, so that repeated description thereof is omitted.

Fig. 14 shows an example, in which the part 21 surrounded by a broken line is simplified in Fig. 6 that shows the mentioned flicker suppression compensation amount output
30 means 16 according to the first embodiment.

The first decoded data Db2 and the second decoded data Db1, which have been inputted to the flicker suppression compensation amount output means 16, are further inputted to an adder 31.

5 The adder 31, to which mentioned first decoded data Db2 and mentioned second decoded data Db1 have been inputted, outputs to 1/2 coefficient unit 32 data (Db2+Db1) obtained by adding these decoded data.

10 The addition data (Db2+Db1), which have been outputted from the adder 31, become (Db2+Db1)/2 through the 1/2 coefficient unit 32. Specifically, the mentioned 1/2 coefficient unit outputs the average gradation data Db (ave) equivalent to an average gradation between a gradation of a target frame and a gradation of the frame before this target
15 frame by one frame.

 Figs. 15 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) are charts each showing a change in gradation characteristic of a target frame, which is displayed by the display means 12 according to this second embodiment, in the case where a flicker detection signal Ef
20 is not less than Ef4 ($Ef4 \leq Ef$), or in the case where the first coefficient $m=0$, and the second coefficient $n=1$.

 In the drawings, Fig. 15 (a) indicates values of a frame data Di2 before compensation. Fig. 15 (b) indicates values of an output data Db from the 1/2 coefficient unit 32
25 constituting the flicker suppression compensation amount output means 16 according to the second embodiment. Fig. 15 (c) indicates values of a flicker suppression compensation amount Df to be outputted from the flicker suppression compensation amount output means 16 according to the second
30 embodiment. Fig. 15 (d) indicates values of a frame data Dj2

obtained by compensating a frame data $Di2$. Fig. 15 (e) indicates display gradations of a target frame displayed by the display means 12 based on mentioned frame data $Dj2$. In Fig. 15 (d), a solid line indicates values of a frame data $Dj2$, and for comparison, a broken line indicates values of a frame data $Di2$ before compensation. Further, in Fig. 15 (e), characteristic shown with the broken line indicates a display gradation in the case of no compensation, or in the case where a target frame is displayed based on the mentioned frame data $Di2$.

As shown in Fig. 15 (a), in the case of a flicker state in which number of gradations changes periodically every frame, a flicker suppression compensation amount Df as shown in Fig. 15 (c) is outputted from the flicker suppression compensation amount output means 16. Further, the mentioned flicker suppression compensation amount Df is obtained by subtracting the mentioned average gradation data Db (ave) from the mentioned second decoded data $Db1$. Then, frame data $Di2$ are compensated with this flicker suppression compensation amount Df .

Accordingly, the frame data $Di2$ having been in the state that a flicker component is contained and variation in data values is significant as shown in Fig. 15 (a), are compensated so that a data value in a region containing a flicker component in the frame data $Di2$ before compensation may be a constant data value like frame data $Dj2$ shown in Fig. 15 (d). Thus, in the case of displaying a target frame by the display means 12 based on the mentioned frame data $Dj2$, it becomes possible to prevent the flicker interference from being displayed.

As described above, according to the image display device

of this second embodiment, it become possible to obtain the same advantages as in the foregoing first embodiment while achieving simplification of internal constitution of the flicker suppression compensation data generation means 16.

5 As seen from the comparison between Fig. 10 (e) shown in the foregoing first embodiment and Fig. 15 (e) shown in this second embodiment, according to this second embodiment, it comes to be possible to display a target frame without generating any overshoot observed at the change in number of
10 gradations from j frame to $(j+1)$ frame, and at the change in number of gradations from k frame to $(k+1)$ frame in Fig. 10 (e).

Embodiment 3.

15 An image display device according to a third preferred embodiment is to simplify the system constitution of the image display device of the foregoing first and second embodiments.

 Further, the image display device according to this third embodiment makes it possible to suppress flicker interference
20 at a vertical edge occurring in the case where an image signal to be inputted to the mentioned image display device is an interlace signal.

 The flicker interference occurs at a vertical edge of an interlace signal. Thus, in the case where any image signal
25 to be inputted is the interlace signal, it is possible to detect flicker interference by detecting a vertical edge.

 Fig. 16 is a block diagram showing a constitution of an image display device according to the third embodiment. In the image display device according to this third embodiment,
30 an image signal is inputted to an input terminal 1.

An image signal having been inputted to the input terminal 1 is received by receiving means 2. Then, the image signal having been received by the receiving means 2 is outputted to a frame data compensation device 3 as frame data Di2 of a digital format (hereinafter, the frame data are also referred to as image data). Herein, the mentioned frame data Di2 stand for those data corresponding to number of gradations, a chrominance differential signal and the like that are included in an image signal to be inputted. Further, the mentioned frame data Di2 are frame data corresponding to a frame targeted (hereinafter, referred to as a target frame) to be compensated by the frame data compensation device 33 out of the frames included in the inputted image signal. In addition, in this third embodiment, the case of compensating the frame data Di2 corresponding to number of gradations of the mentioned target frame is described.

The frame data Di2 having been outputted from the receiving means 2 are compensated by the frame data compensation device 33, and outputted to the display means 12 as the frame data Dj2 having been compensated.

The display means 12 displays a compensated frame based on the frame data Dj2 having been outputted from the frame data compensation device 33.

Hereinafter, operations of the frame data compensation device 33 according to the third embodiment are described.

The frame data Di2 having been outputted from the receiving means 2 are first encoded by encoding means 4 in the frame data compensation device 33 whereby data capacity of the frame data Di2 is compressed.

Then, the encoding means 4 outputs first encoded data Da2,

which are obtained by encoding the mentioned frame data Di2, to first delay means 5 and first decoding means 7. Herein, as for encoding method of the frame data Di2 at the encoding means 4, any encoding method including a 2-dimensional
5 discrete cosine transform encoding method such as JPEG, a block encoding method such as FBT or GBTC, a prediction encoding method such as JPEG-LS, and a wavelet transform such as JPEG2000, can be employed on condition that the method is used for still image. As for the above-mentioned encoding
10 method for the static image, either a lossless (reversible) encoding method in which frame data before encoding and the coded frame data are completely coincident or a lossy (non-reversible) encoding method in which both of them are not coincident can be employed. Further, either variable
15 length encoding method in which encoding amount varies depending on an image data, or a fixed-length encoding method in which an encoding amount is constant can be employed.

The delay means 5, which receives the mentioned first encoded data Da2 having been outputted from the encoding means
20 4, outputs to second decoding means 8 second encoded data Da1 corresponding to a frame before the frame corresponding to the mentioned first encoded data Da2 by one frame.

Further, the first decoding means 7, which receives the mentioned first encoded data Da2 having outputted from the
25 encoding means 4, outputs to a frame data compensation amount output device 35 first decoded data Db2 that can be obtained by decoding mentioned first encoded data Da2.

Furthermore, the second decoding means 8, which receives the second encoded data Da1 having been outputted from the
30 first delay means 5, outputs to the frame data compensation

amount output device 35 second decoded data Db1 that can be obtained by decoding the mentioned second encoded data Da1.

Vertical edge detection means 34 receives frame data Di2 corresponding to a target frame to be outputted from the receiving means 2, and outputs a vertical edge level signal Ve to the frame data compensation output device 35. Herein, a vertical edge level signal Ve stands for degrees of the flicker interference at the vertical edge, that is, a signal corresponding to a degree of change in number of gradations.

The frame data compensation amount output device 35 outputs to compensation means 11 a compensation amount Dc to compensate number of gradations of the frame data Di2 based on the first decoded data Db2 and second decoded data Db1, and a vertical edge level signal Ve.

The compensation means 11 to which a compensation amount Dc is inputted compensates the mentioned frame data Di2 based on this compensation amount Dc, and outputs to the display means 12 frame data Dj2 obtained by this compensation.

Furthermore, a compensation amount Dc is set to be such a compensation amount as is capable of carrying out compensation so that gradation of a target frame to be displayed based on the mentioned frame data Di2 may be within a range of gradation that can be displayed by the display means 12. Accordingly, for example, in the case where the display means can display a gradation of up to 8 bits, a compensation amount Dc is set to be the one that is capable of carrying out the compensation so that gradation of a target frame to be displayed based on the mentioned frame data Dj2 may be in a range from 0 gradation to 255 gradations.

In addition, in the frame data compensation device 33,

it is possible to carry out the compensation of the frame data Di2 even if there is none of the mentioned encoding means 4, first decoding means 7, and second decoding means 8. However, data capacity of any frame data can be made smaller by providing the mentioned encoding means 4. Thus it becomes possible to reduce recording means comprising a semiconductor memory, a magnetic disc or the like that constitutes the delay means 5, thereby enabling to make a circuit scale smaller as the whole device. Further, by making an encoding factor (data compression factor) of the encoding means 4 higher, it is possible to make smaller capacity of, e.g., memory necessary for delaying the mentioned first encoded data Da2 in the mentioned first delay means 5.

Furthermore, due to the fact that there is provided the decoding means, which decodes an encoded data, it comes to be possible to eliminate influence caused by errors generated by encoding and compression.

Hereinafter, the frame data compensation amount output device 35 according to the third embodiment is described.

Fig. 17 is an example of an internal constitution of the frame data compensation amount output device 35 of Fig. 16.

With reference to Fig. 17, the first decoded data Db2 and the second decoded data Db1, which have been outputted from the first decoding means 7 and the second decoding means 8 respectively, are inputted to each of gradation rate-of-change compensation amount output means 15 and flicker suppression compensation amount output means 36. Then, the mentioned gradation rate-of-change compensation amount output means 15 and flicker suppression compensation amount output means 36 output a gradation rate-of-change

compensation amount D_v and a flicker suppression compensation amount D_f to a first coefficient unit 18 and a second coefficient unit 19 respectively based on the mentioned first decoded data Db_2 and the mentioned second decoded data Db_1 .

5 Coefficient generation means 37 outputs a first coefficient m and a second coefficient n based on a vertical edge level signal V_e to be outputted from the vertical edge detection means 34.

10 Then, the frame data compensation amount output device 35 outputs a compensation amount D_c to compensate the frame data Di_2 based on the mentioned gradation rate-of-change compensation amount D_v , flicker suppression compensation amount D_f , first coefficient m and second coefficient n .

15 With reference to Fig. 17, the gradation rate-of-change compensation amount output means 15 is preliminarily provided with a lookup table as shown in Fig. 4, the table consisting of compensation amounts D_v to compensate number of gradations of the frame data Di_2 likewise the mentioned first embodiment. Then, the gradation rate-of-change compensation amount
20 output means 15 outputs to a first coefficient unit 18 the mentioned gradation rate-of-change compensation amount D_v from the lookup table based on the mentioned first decoded data Db_2 and the mentioned second decoded data Db_1 .

25 The flicker suppression compensation amount output means 36 outputs to the mentioned second coefficient unit 19 a flicker suppression compensation amount D_f to compensate the frame data Di_2 containing data corresponding to a flicker interference based on the mentioned first decoded data Db_2 and the mentioned second decoded data Db_1 .

30 The coefficient generation means 17 outputs the first

coefficient m , by which a gradation rate-of-change compensation amount D_v is multiplied, and the second coefficient n , by which a flicker suppression compensation amount D_f is multiplied, to the first coefficient unit 18 and the second coefficient unit 19 respectively in accordance with the vertical edge level signal V_e outputted from the vertical edge detection means 34.

The first coefficient unit 18 and second coefficient unit 19 multiply respective gradation rate-of-change compensation amount D_v and flicker suppression compensation amount D_f by the first coefficient m and second coefficient n having been outputted from the coefficient generation means 17 respectively. Then, $(m \cdot D_v)$ and $(n \cdot D_f)$ are outputted to an adder 20 from the first coefficient unit 18 and the second coefficient unit 19 respectively.

The adder 20 adds $(m \cdot D_v)$, which is outputted from the mentioned first coefficient unit 18, and $(n \cdot D_f)$, which is outputted from the mentioned second coefficient unit 19, and outputs a compensation amount D_c .

Fig. 18 is an example of an internal constitution of the flicker suppression compensation amount output means 36 of Fig. 17.

The mentioned first decoded data Db_2 and the mentioned second decoded data Db_1 are outputted to an adder 38.

The adder 38 adds the mentioned first decoded data Db_2 and second decoded data Db_1 , and outputs an addition result $(Db_2 + Db_1)$ to a $1/2$ coefficient unit 39.

The addition data $(Db_2 + Db_1)$, which have been outputted from the adder 38, are made into data of $1/2$ size, $((1/2) \cdot (Db_2 + Db_1))$ through the $1/2$ coefficient unit 39, which are

then outputted to a subtracter 40. The data of $1/2$ size, which are outputted from the $1/2$ coefficient unit 39, are the data equivalent to an average gradation of gradations of a target frame and the frame before the target frame by one frame. Hereinafter, the data are referred to as average gradation data Db (ave).

In the case where any flicker interference occurs when a target frame is displayed by the display means 12, the mentioned average gradation data Db (ave) are equivalent to an average gradation of a flicker part.

A subtracter 40 generates a flicker suppression compensation amount Df by subtracting the average gradation data Db (ave) from the mentioned second decoded data $Db1$, and outputs this flicker suppression compensation amount Df to the second coefficient unit 19.

Values of the coefficients m and n , which are outputted from the coefficient generation means 17, are determined in accordance with a vertical edge level signal Ve as shown in Fig. 19.

In the case where level of the vertical edge level signal Ve is not more than $Ve1$ ($0 \leq Ve \leq Ve1$), that is, in the case where a component equivalent to a vertical edge is not contained in the frame data $Di2$, or in the case where a component equivalent to the foregoing vertical edge exerts no influence on image quality of a target frame to be displayed by the display means even if any component equivalent to the mentioned vertical edge is contained, the first coefficient m and the second coefficient n are outputted so that only a gradation rate-of-change compensation amount Dv may be the compensation amount Dc . Accordingly, $m=1$ and $n=0$ are

outputted from the coefficient generation means.

In the case where level of the vertical edge level signal V_e is not less than V_{e4} ($V_{e4} \leq V_e$), that is, in the case where any component equivalent to a vertical edge is contained in the frame data D_{i2} , the first coefficient m and the second coefficient n are outputted so that only a flicker suppression compensation amount D_f may be the compensation amount D_c . Accordingly, $m=0$ and $n=1$ are outputted from the coefficient generation means 17.

In the case where level of the vertical edge level signal V_e is larger than V_{e1} and smaller than V_{e4} ($V_{e1} < V_e < V_{e4}$), the first coefficient m and the second coefficient n are outputted so that a third compensation amount that is generated based on a gradation rate-of-change compensation amount D_v and a flicker suppression compensation amount D_f may be a compensation amount D_c . Accordingly, the first coefficient m and second coefficient n that satisfy the conditions of

$$0 < m < 1 \text{ and } 0 < n < 1,$$

are outputted from the coefficient generation means 17.

Further, the first coefficient m and the second coefficient n are set so as to satisfy the condition of $m+n \leq 1$. In case of not satisfying this condition, it is possible that the frame data D_{j2} , which are obtained by compensating the frame data D_{i2} with the compensation amount D_c to be outputted from the frame data compensation amount output device 10, contain data corresponding to number of gradations exceeding number of gradations capable of being displayed by the display means 12. Specifically, such a problem occurs that a target frame cannot be displayed even if the mentioned target frame is intended to display by the display means based

on the mentioned frame data D_{j2}

Furthermore, although change in the first coefficient m and the second coefficient n is shown with a straight line, it is preferable to be, e.g., a curved line in case of monotonic change.

Additionally, even in this case, it is a matter of course that the first coefficient m and the second coefficient n are set so as to satisfy the mentioned condition, i.e., $m+n \leq 1$.

Figs. 20 (a), (b) and (c) are charts each showing a change in gradation characteristic of a target frame to be displayed by the display means 12 in the case where level of the vertical edge detection signal V_e is not more than V_{e1} ($0 \leq V_e \leq V_{e1}$), or in the case where the first coefficient $m=1$, and the second coefficient $n=0$.

In the drawings, Fig. 20 (a) indicates values of a frame data D_{i2} before compensation, Fig. 20 (b) indicates values of a frame data D_{j2} having been compensated, and Fig. 20 (c) indicates gradations of a target frame displayed by the display means 12 based on the compensated frame data D_{j2} . Further, in Fig. 20 (c), characteristic shown with a broken line indicates gradations of a target frame displayed in the case of no compensation, i.e., based on the mentioned frame data D_{i2} .

In the case where number of gradations of a target frame increases as compared with a frame before the target frame by one frame as the change from j frame to $(j+1)$ frame in Fig. 20(a), frame data D_{j2} having been compensated by the mentioned gradation rate-of-change compensation amount D_v are $(D_{i2}+V_1)$ as shown in Fig. 20(b). Whereas, in the case where number

of gradations of a target frame decreases as compared with a frame before the target frame by one frame as the change from k frame to (k+1) frame, the frame data D_{j2} having been compensated with the mentioned gradation rate-of-change compensation amount are $(D_{i2}-V_2)$ as shown in Fig. 20 (b).

Owing to the performance of the mentioned compensation, transmittance of a liquid crystal as for a display pixel (picture element), in which gradation of a target frame increases over the preceding frame by one frame, rises as compared with the case where a target frame is displayed based on a frame data D_{i2} before compensation. Whereas, transmittance of a liquid crystal as for a display pixel (picture element), in which a gradation of a target frame decreases below the preceding frame, drops as compared with the case where a target frame is displayed based on the frame data D_{i2} before compensation.

Thus, as for number of gradations of a target frame displayed by the display means 12, it comes to be possible to cause a display gradation (brightness) of display image to change substantially within one frame as shown in Fig. 20 (c).

Figs. 21 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) are charts each showing change in gradation characteristic of display image at the display means 12 in the case where the vertical edge level signal V_e is not less than V_{e4} ($V_{e4} \leq V_e$), or in the case where the first coefficient $m=0$, and the second coefficient $n=1$.

In the drawings, Fig. 21 (a) indicates values of frame data D_{i2} before compensation. Fig. 21 (b) indicates values of average gradation data D_b (ave) to be outputted from the 1/2 coefficient unit 39 constituting the flicker suppression

compensation amount output means 16. Fig. 21 (c) indicates values of a flicker suppression compensation amount D_f to be outputted from the flicker suppression compensation amount output means 16. Fig. 21 (d) indicates values of frame data D_{j2} obtained from compensating frame data D_{i2} . Fig. 21 (e) indicates gradations of a target frame to be displayed by the display means 12 based on the mentioned frame data D_{j2} . Further, in Fig. 21 (d), a solid line indicates values of frame data D_{j2} , and for comparison, a broken line indicates values of frame data D_{i2} before compensation. Further, in Fig. 21 (f), characteristic shown with the broken line indicates a display gradation in the case of carrying out no gradation compensation, or in the case where a target frame is displayed based on the mentioned frame data D_{i2} .

As shown in Fig. 21 (a), in the case of a flicker state in which number of gradations changes periodically every frame, a flicker suppression compensation amount D_f as shown in Fig. 21 (c) is outputted from the flicker suppression compensation amount output means 16. Then, frame data D_{i2} are compensated with this flicker suppression compensation amount D_f . Accordingly, the frame data D_{i2} having been in the state that a flicker component is contained and variation in data values is significant as shown in Fig. 21 (a), are compensated so that a data value in a region containing any flicker component in the frame data D_{i2} before compensation may be a constant data value like the frame data D_{j2} shown in Fig. 21 (d). Thus, in the case of displaying a target frame by the display means 12 based on the mentioned frame data D_{j2} , it becomes possible to prevent the flicker interference from being displayed.

In addition, in the case where the first coefficient $m=0.5$ and the second coefficient $n=0.5$, it is the same as Fig. 11 shown in the mentioned first embodiment.

Fig. 22 is a diagram showing an example of an internal constitution of the vertical edge detection means 34 of Fig. 16.

With reference to Fig. 22, one line delay means 41 outputs data Di2LD (hereinafter referred to as delay data Di2LD) obtained by delaying the frame data Di2 corresponding to a target frame by one horizontal scan time period. A vertical edge detector 42 outputs a vertical edge level signal Ve based on the mentioned frame data Di2 and the mentioned delay data Di2LD. This vertical edge level signal Ve is outputted, for example, in a manner of reference to a lookup table or a data processing based on the mentioned frame data Di2 and delay data Di2LD.

Hereinafter, a case where the mentioned vertical edge level signal Ve is outputted in a manner of data processing is described.

Fig. 23 is an example of an internal constitution of the vertical edge detector 42 of Fig. 22 in the case where the mentioned vertical edge level signal Ve is outputted in a manner of the data processing. With reference to Fig. 23, the mentioned frame data Di2 and the mentioned delay data Di2LD are inputted to first horizontal direction pixel (picture element) data averaging means 43 and second horizontal direction pixel (picture element) data averaging means 44 respectively.

The first horizontal direction pixel (picture element) data averaging means 43, to which mentioned frame data Di2

is inputted, and the second horizontal direction pixel (picture element) data averaging means 44, to which mentioned delay data Di2LD is inputted, output to a subtracter 45 a first averaged data and second averaged data obtained by
5 respectively averaging the mentioned frame data Di2 and delay data Di2LD each corresponding to continuous pixels (picture elements) on a horizontal line in the display means 12.

The subtracter 45, to which the mentioned first averaged data and second averaged data are inputted, subtracts the
10 second averaged data from the first averaged data and outputs to absolute value processing means 46 a result of such subtraction.

An output signal from the absolute value processing means 46 is outputted, establishing magnitude of a difference
15 between pixels (picture elements) for one line adjacent to each other in vertical direction as a signal Ve. Further, averaging, e.g., frame data Di2 corresponding to continuous pixels (picture elements) on a horizontal line in the display means 12 is carried out in order to eliminate influence due
20 to noise or signal component contained in the mentioned frame data Di2, and to cause an appropriate vertical edge level signal Ve to output. Besides, it is matter of course that the number of pixels (picture elements) to be averaged varies depending on the system to which the mentioned vertical edge
25 detection means is applied.

As described above, according to the image display device of this third embodiment, it becomes possible to adaptively compensate the mentioned frame data Di2 depending on whether or not any component equivalent to a vertical edge is contained
30 in the frame data Di2 corresponding to a target frame.

Specifically, in the case where no component equivalent to the vertical edge is contained in the mentioned frame data Di2 and when number of gradations of the mentioned target frame is changed with respect to the frame before this target frame
5 by one frame, then the mentioned frame data Di2 are compensated so that the change may be represented faster by the display means, thus the frame data Dj2 having been compensated are generated.

Consequently, by carrying out displaying of any target
10 frame with the display means 12 based on the mentioned frame data Dj2, it becomes possible to improve rate-of-change in gradation of a display image at a normal drive voltage without change in drive voltage applied to the liquid crystal.

On the other hand, in the case where any component
15 equivalent to the vertical edge is contained in the frame data Di2 and, besides, it is determined that the component equivalent to this vertical edge assuredly becomes a flicker interference in a target frame to be displayed by the display means, the frame data Di2 are compensated so that
20 transmittance of the liquid crystal in the display means 12 may be an average gradation number of a flicker state, and a frame data Dj2 is generated. Thus, it comes to be possible to make display gradation constant in the case of displaying a target frame by the display means 12. Consequently,
25 influence of the flicker interference on a displayed target frame can be suppressed.

Furthermore, in the case where any component equivalent to the vertical edge is contained in a frame data Di2 and, besides, the component equivalent to this vertical edge
30 exerts any influence on image quality of a target frame to

be displayed by the display means, a third compensation amount is generated based on a gradation rate-of-change compensation amount D_v and a flicker suppression compensation amount D_f depending on degrees of the component equivalent to this vertical edge. Then, the mentioned frame data $Di2$ are compensated with this third compensation amount, thus frame data $Dj2$ are generated.

Consequently, in the case of displaying a target frame by the display means based on the mentioned frame data $Dj2$, as compared with the case of displaying a target frame based on the mentioned frame data $Di2$, it becomes possible to display at a normal drive voltage a frame in which occurrence of the flicker interference is suppressed and rate-of-change in gradation rate is improved.

Specifically, in the image display device according to this third embodiment, at the time of displaying any target frame by the display means, it comes to be possible to improve rate-of-change in display gradation, and prevent deterioration of image quality due to an unnecessary increase and decrease in number of gradations accompanied by, e.g., the occurrence of flicker interference.

Furthermore, the following effects like those in the foregoing first embodiment can be obtained. Specifically, by encoding a frame data $Di2$ corresponding to a target frame by the encoding means 4 and carrying out compression of data capacity, it becomes possible to reduce capacity of the memory necessary for delaying the mentioned frame data $Di2$ by one frame time period or two frame time period. Thus, it comes to be possible to simplify the delay means and to reduce circuit scale. Besides, since the encoding carries out the

compression of data capacity without making the mentioned frame data Di2 thin, it is possible to enhance accuracy in frame data compensation amount Dc, and carry out appropriate compensation.

5 In addition, since encoding as to the frame data Di2 corresponding to a target frame to be displayed is not carried out, it becomes possible to display the mentioned target frame without exerting the influence of errors caused by coding and decoding.

10 Further, although the case where data, which are inputted to the gradation rate-of-change compensation amount output means 15, are of 8 bits in the above-mentioned descriptions of the operation, it is not limited to this example. But it is also preferable to be of any number of bits only on condition
15 that the data are of bits enabling to substantially generate compensation data by, e.g., an interpolation processing.

Embodiment 4.

20 In the liquid crystal panel of the display means 12 described in the foregoing third embodiment, for example, a response rate at the time of changing from any intermediate gradation (gray) to a high gradation (white) is slow. According to this fourth preferred embodiment, in the liquid crystal panel, the mentioned slow response rate, which is a
25 problem at the time of such change, is taken into consideration, and an internal constitution of the vertical edge detector
42 according to the mentioned third embodiment is improved.

Fig. 24 is an example of an internal constitution of a vertical edge detector 42 according to this fourth embodiment.
30 In this connection, except for the internal constitution of

this vertical edge detector 42 shown in Fig. 24, the other constituting elements and operations are the same as in the foregoing third embodiment so that repeated descriptions thereof are omitted.

5 Frame data Di2 are inputted to a first horizontal direction pixel (picture element) data averaging means 43 and a subtracter 48. Besides, 1/2 gradation data are outputted to the subtracter 48 from halftone (intermediate gradation) data output means 47. Further, the mentioned 1/2 gradation
10 data are the ones corresponding to 1/2 gradations of the maximum number of gradations within a range capable of being displayed by the display means. Accordingly, for example, in the case of an 8-bit gradation signal, 127 gradation data are outputted from the mentioned 1/2 gradation data output
15 means.

 The subtracter 48, to which a frame data Di2 and a 1/2 gradation data are inputted, subtracts the 1/2 gradation data from the mentioned frame data Di2, and outputs differential data obtained by the mentioned subtraction to absolute value
20 processing means 49.

 The absolute value processing means 49, to which mentioned differential data are inputted, takes an absolute value of the mentioned differential data, and outputs it to synthesis means 50 (hereinafter, the mentioned differential
25 data having been converted to an absolute value is referred to as a target frame gradation number signal w). In addition, a target frame gradation number signal w represents how number of gradations of the target frame is apart from the 1/2 gradation.

30 The synthesis means 50 outputs a new vertical edge level

signal Ve' based on a vertical edge level signal Ve , which is outputted from the mentioned first absolute value processing means 46, and a target frame gradation number signal w , which is outputted from mentioned second absolute value processing means 49. Then, coefficient means 37 outputs a first coefficient m and a second coefficient n in accordance with the new vertical edge level signal Ve' .

Herein, a new vertical edge level signal Ve' is obtained by addition or multiplication of the mentioned vertical edge level signal Ve and the mentioned target frame gradation number signal w . Alternatively, it is preferable to obtain a new vertical edge level signal Ve' by multiplying either the mentioned vertical edge level signal Ve or the mentioned target frame gradation number signal w by a coefficient, then adding these signals.

With the vertical edge detection means according to this fourth embodiment, as number of gradations of a target frame is remote from $1/2$ gradations (for example, 127 gradations in the case of an 8-bit gradation signal), a value of the mentioned second coefficient n becomes larger. Accordingly, a portion of a flicker suppression compensation amount Df comes to be larger in a compensation amount Dc . In other words, the mentioned new vertical edge detection signal Ve' can be said a signal obtained by weighting the mentioned vertical edge level signal Ve in accordance with number of gradations of a target frame with the mentioned target frame gradation number signal w .

Hereinafter, weight of the mentioned new vertical edge level signal Ve' in accordance with number of gradations of a target frame is described with examples shown in Fig. 25.

In addition, Fig. 25 shows an example of the case of adding the vertical edge level signal V_e and the target frame gradation number signal w .

With reference to Fig. 25, a black circle denotes number of gradations of a target frame, and a white circle denotes number of gradations of the frame before the mentioned target frame by one frame. In the drawing, arrows ①, ②, ③ shows a case where the mentioned vertical edge level signal V_e is $1/2$, and arrows ④, ⑤, ⑥ are in the case where the mentioned vertical edge level signal V_e is $3/4$. In addition, a vertical axis of the chart is shown with a ratio of number of gradations. Specifically, numeral 1 corresponds to the maximum value of number of gradations capable of being displayed by the display means (for example, 255 gradations in the case of an 8-bit gradation signal). Numeral 0 corresponds to the minimum value (for example, 0 gradation in the case of an 8-bit gradation signal).

Described first is the case where the mentioned vertical edge level signal V_e is $1/2$ as indicated by the arrows ①, ②, ③ in the chart. As shown in Fig. 25, in the case where ratio of number of gradations is changed from 0 or 1 to $1/2$ (①, or ②), a value obtained by subtracting the $1/2$ gradation from the number of gradation of a target frame, i.e., the mentioned target frame gradation number signal w becomes 0. On the other hand, in the case where ratio of number of gradations is changed from $1/4$ to $3/4$ (③), the mentioned target frame gradation number signal w becomes $1/4$. Accordingly, a new vertical edge level signal V_e' , which is outputted from the synthesis means 50, becomes larger in value in the case of ③ where a target frame is remote from the $1/2$

gradation as shown in a table of the chart.

Described now is the case where the mentioned vertical edge level signal V_e is $3/4$ as indicated by the arrows ④, ⑤, ⑥ in the chart. As shown in Fig. 25, in the case where
5 ratio of number of gradations is changed from 0 to $3/4$, or from 1 to $1/4$ (④, or ⑤), a value obtained by subtracting the $1/2$ gradation from the number of gradation of a target frame, i.e., the mentioned target frame gradation number signal w becomes $1/4$ respectively. On the other hand, in the case
10 where ratio of number of gradations is changed from $1/8$ to $7/8$ (⑥), the mentioned target frame gradation number signal w becomes $3/4$. Accordingly, a new vertical edge level signal V_e' , which is outputted from the synthesis means 50, becomes larger in value in the case of ⑥ where a target frame is remote
15 from the $1/2$ gradation as shown in the table of the chart.

As described above, by applying the vertical edge detector according to this fourth embodiment to the image display device described in the foregoing third embodiment, it comes to be possible to weight a vertical edge detection
20 signal V_e . Accordingly, even in the case where change in number of gradations of a target frame and the frame before this target frame by one frame are the same, different values of the first coefficient m and second coefficient n are outputted. In this manner, it comes to be possible to adjust
25 a portion of a flicker suppression compensation amount in a compensation amount D_c , which is outputted from the frame data compensation amount output device 35, in accordance with number of gradations of the mentioned target frame. Consequently, it becomes possible to adaptively output the
30 mentioned compensation amount D_c depending on a response rate

of a change in gradation at a target frame and degrees of the flicker interference.

Further, although a $1/2$ gradation is described as an example of halftone in this fourth embodiment, weighting with respect to the mentioned arbitrary gradation can be carried out by outputting data corresponding to an arbitrary gradation from halftone data output means without taking the $1/2$ gradation.

In addition, it is possible to combine what are described in the foregoing first to fourth embodiments when required. For example, it is possible to add the vertical edge detection means, which is described in the foregoing third or fourth embodiment, to the image display device described in the first embodiment.

Furthermore, a liquid panel is employed as an example in the foregoing first to fourth embodiments. However, it is also possible to apply the frame data compensation amount output device, the vertical edge detection device and the like, which are described in the foregoing first to fourth embodiments, to a device in which image displaying is carried by causing any substance having a predetermined moment of inertia to move like the liquid crystal, for example, an electronic paper.

While the presently preferred embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described. It is to be understood that these disclosures are for the purpose of illustration and that various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.